

# Magruder, 'Down, Out'

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Jeb Stuart Magruder, a key figure in the Watergate affair, has been restored to the payroll of the 1973 Inaugural Committee.

Magruder, a former White House and Nixon re-election official, served as executive director of the Inaugural Committee, which collected some \$3.5 million to stage the inauguration on Jan. 20. The job paid a salary in the \$30,000-to-\$35,000 range.

He left in March to take a Commerce Department post but resigned less than a month later as the Watergate probe widened. He was rehired Monday by inaugural chairman J. Willard Marriott Sr., hotel-restaurant magnate and prominent Republican contributor.

Magruder is believed to be the "key member" of the Watergate conspiracy who U.S. Attorney Harold H. Titus Jr. said yesterday will plead guilty and testify against others involved in the conspiracy.

Magruder is one of four salaried employees now on the Inaugural Committee payroll. Two are bookkeepers and the fourth is another key Watergate witness, secretary Sally Harmony, who is reportedly being paid \$14,000 a year. Federal investigators have said that Mrs. Harmony did not tell the truth in testimony before the Watergate grand jury.

Magruder's salary, and

that of Mrs. Harmony, will come out of inaugural funds.

In February, the Inaugural Committee estimated it would show a profit of approximately \$200,000 from projects such as the sale of medallions and tickets to inaugural events. Part of any profit, the committee said, would go to charity and the remainder to 1977 inaugural planning.

Mrs. Harmony, like Magruder, went to the Inaugural Committee from the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Magruder, a former protege of H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, was deputy campaign director.

Mrs. Harmony had been the personal secretary of convicted Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy and transcribed the Watergate bugging tapes. Federal prosecutors and Senate investigators have regarded her for months as a reluctant and frequently uncooperative witness.

Although the Inaugural Committee is scheduled to finish its work (tabulating receipts and paying bills) and close its doors on May 31, Magruder has been given a special assignment that could continue for an indefinite period.

Marriott said yesterday that Magruder will be overseeing the completion of financial records and 34 subcommittee reports which are to be bound and presented to President Nixon and the National Archives.

Magruder could finish up

his inaugural tasks in 30 days, Marriott said, or they could "drag on for months."

Marriott refused to reveal how much Magruder now is being paid.

"That's inaugural business and it's private," he said. "It will be made public only when the financial report is made public. You can read it then."

Magruder, who testified under oath at the Watergate trial last summer that he had no prior knowledge of the bugging, was called a perjurer last week by James W. McCord Jr. in his testimony before the Senate.

Magruder eventually changed his story and told federal prosecutors on April 14 that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell

## Rehired by Nixon I.

and presidential counsel John W. Dean III approved and helped plan the bugging.

He also accused Mitchell and Dean of trying to buy the silence of the seven convicted Watergate conspirators.

In counter charges leveled at Magruder, former Nixon campaign committee treasurer Hugh W. Sloan Jr. told federal prosecutors that Magruder urged him on three occasions to lie to investigators and the grand jury.

Magruder served as director of policy development at Commerce at an annual salary of \$36,000. He resigned April 26, the first official involved in the Watergate affair, to do so.

With a family of four young children, Magruder has reportedly been having financial difficulties in recent weeks.

Marriott defended putting Magruder back on the Inaugural Committee payroll.

"He's got a right to earn a living, to feed his family," Marriott said. "He hasn't been convicted of anything yet. He has no income and can't live on nothing. He's down and out and he's got a right to work. It's none of the newspaper's business."

"I'm not going to get involved in the Watergate" "It's none of my business. He (Magruder) is not in jail. He's a free man. There's nothing illegal about what he's doing."

Magruder "had to come back anyway to do this work," Marriott said. "Somebody has to do it. I can't. If he had still had an income, I'd have asked him to do it as a volunteer."

Since going to Commerce at the end of March, Magruder has been "doing a lot of work for the Inaugural Committee for which he did not get paid," Marriott noted.

Magruder could not be reached for comment at the committee's office yesterday. Sally Harmony was taking his calls. She would inform him that The Washington Post had called, she said, but explained:

"I don't think he is going to want to say anything about this."